

lands. It has given good yields and appears to be a promising variety in some sections without irrigation, but it has not been tested a sufficient length of time to determine its value under these conditions. Until it has been tested more fully there is no assurance that it will be superior to the varieties already grown on nonirrigated lands.

Notes from Agricultural Explorers in the Field.

Mr. J. F. Rock writes from Nguluke, Likiang, China, August 25, 1922:

Since my return to the slopes of this beloved mountain I have been up to a height of 17,200 feet; the view from up there down the tremendous Yangtze gorge, 14,000 feet straight below me, is wonderful. On one side enormous mountain ranges extend to the east, with the Yangtze again on the other side but not visible owing to the distance (2 days' journey), and the mighty snow peak with an ice and snow wall 3,900 feet above me. This mountain is as steep as the walls of a house, with here and there alpine meadows perched between mighty limestone crags. The crags are gardens themselves, the plants are innumerable; the lovely saxifrages, beautiful composites, edelweiss, aconites, delphiniums, roses way up there (they were in fruit but not quite mature), junipers, gentians, senecios, campanulas, *Codonopsis*, *Gnaphalium*, and a host of others too numerous to mention. The crowning plant of all, the last vegetation encountered on these mighty limestone crags, is a composite, *Saussurea gossipiphora*. It is about 18 inches high and the whole plant forms a cone about 8 inches in diameter and packed with cotton; it looks like a sugared pudding. The flowers, which are purple, are hidden in this cotton wool and have to be searched for deep in the wool. The leaves form a basal rosette. There is another species here, smaller and less cottony; it grows in open loose limestone gravel also at 17,000 feet and does not descend lower. I am mailing you tomorrow several packages of seeds. The most noteworthy is a *Rubus*, the finest and most delicious of the range. I am packing the seed in 3 different ways to be sure that it gets there alive. I have sent you seeds of this plant before, but these come from fine plants found in a *Larix potanini* forest at an altitude of 13,000 feet. Be sure and get it to grow. The species is as yet unnamed, as I understand from Forrest. Next is *Paeonia delavayi*, a beautiful shrub 4 feet high with very deep crimson flowers 3 inches across; it grows among limestone boulders and also in alpine meadows from 10,000 to 13,000 feet. Then there is a lovely *Lonicera*, I do not know the species. It is not a climber but a shrub or more often a tree 20 feet in height, with a trunk a foot in diameter. The flowers are a deep orange-yellow with a paler lower lip. It is common here at 9,000 to 10,000 feet. Next *Ribes glaciale*, a lovely compact shrub 12 to 15 feet in height, now loaded with the red berries. The flowers are often pink and cream colored. It grows at 12,000 feet in